

REMARKS

35 USC §103:

Claims 1-9, 11-21, and 25-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 1,762,303 ("McBride") in view of WO 99/48331 ("331 publication). Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the prior art as applied to claim 1, and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,704,954 ("Mollenhoff").

Applicants thank the Examiner for the conditional allowance of claims 10, 22, and 24.

Provisionally allowed claim 10 originally depended from claim 1. The limitations of provisionally allowed claim 10 have been incorporated into now amended claim 1, and claim 10 has been cancelled. Dependent claims 2-9, 23 and 24 depend from now amended claim 1. Consequently, claims 1-9, 23 and 24 are now in form acceptable for allowance, and applicants request that such claims be allowed.

Provisionally allowed claim 22 originally depended from claim 11. The limitations of provisionally allowed claim 22 have been incorporated into now amended claim 11, and claim 22 has been cancelled. Dependent claims 12-21 and 32-38 depend from now amended claim 11. Consequently, claims 11-21 and 32-38 are now in form acceptable for allowance, and applicants request that such claims be allowed.

Provisionally allowed claim 24 originally depended from claim 1. Claim 24 has now been amended to incorporate all of the limitation of base claim 1. Consequently, claim 24 is now in form acceptable for allowance, and applicants request that such claims be allowed.

Claim 25 has been amended to include the limitations found in provisionally allowed claims 10 and 22. Dependent claims 26-30 depend from now amended claim 25. Consequently, claims 25-30 are now believed to be in form acceptable for allowance, and applicants request that such claims be allowed.

As the applicants have traversed each objection and rejection made by the Examiner, it is respectfully requested that the pending claims be allowed and the present application be passed onto allowance.

Applicants enclose a fee for \$200.00 for the extra independent claim fee. If any

additional fee is due, Applicants respectfully request the fees be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-3381.

Respectfully submitted,

By Richard Getz

Richard D. Getz
Registration No. 36,147
Attorney for Applicants
O'Shea, Getz & Kosakowski, P.C.
1500 Main Street
Suite 912
Springfield, MA 01115
413-731-3100